

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 1538 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA
JAN 30.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 1538

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: STRUCTURAL REFORM OF ILO GOVERNING BODY

REF: (A) STATE 23831 (B) GENEVA 1299

1. LABATT RAISED US CONCERNS OVER EC PROPOSAL TO MODIFY
GOVERNING BODY (GB) STRUCTURE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
DIVISION CHIEF KIJIMA TODAY (JANUARY 30).

2. KIJIMA SAID THAT OF ALL IMEC MEMBERS, JAPAN HELD
POSITION ON THIS ISSUE CLOSEST TO THAT OF US. GOJ
BELIEVES THAT TITULAR MEMBERSHIP OF GB SHOULD REMAIN AS
CLOSE TO 28 AS POSSIBLE, SEATS SHOULD BE APPORTIONED
EQUALLY TO 4 REGIONAL GROUPS AND PRESENT NON-ELECTED
MEMBERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ON GB. MOREOVER,
SINCE HARD BARGAINING WITH GROUP OF 77 LIES AHEAD,
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GOJ BELIEVES THAT IMEC GROUP SHOULD MAKE AS FEW CON-
CESSIONS ON STRUCTURE AS POSSIBLE IN INITIAL PRESENTATION
TO 77. KIJIMA ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT JAPANESE MISSION
IN GENEVA MORE INCLINED TO COMPROMISE BECAUSE OF INFLUENCE
OF EC REPRESENTATIVES. THEREFORE, FOREIGN OFFICE EARLIER
TODAY SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO GENEVA THAT PRESENT GB
COMPOSITION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

3. KIJIMA SAID BASIC PROBLEM WITH EC PROPOSAL IS THAT IT STEMS FROM "EGOTISM" OF EC MEMBERS WHOSE MAIN GOAL IN STRUCTURAL REFORM IS TO INCREASE THEIR OWN REPRESENTATION ON GB. AS KIJIMA UNDERSTANDS IT, IF GB IS ENLARGED TO 46 MEMBERS, IMEC REPRESENTATION WILL INCREASE FROM 9 TO 13 AND MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE 4 ADDITIONAL SEATS WILL GO TO EC MEMBERS OR CANDANAVIANS. ACCORDING TO KIJIMA, GOJ NOT ANXIOUS TO HAVE EITHER NETHERLANDS OR SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRY ADDED TO GB BECAUSE OF TENDENCY OF THESE COUNTRIES TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION WITH 77 AT ALMOST ANY PRICE.

4. KIJIMA NOTED THAT GOJ VERY MUCH AWARE THAT US WILL RE-EVALUATE ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO ON BASIS OF THE TOTAL PACKAGE OF ILO DECISIONS THIS YEAR ON STRUCTURE, DUE PROCESS AND APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN FOREIGN OFFICE ASSURANCES THAT US AND JAPAN POSITIONS ON STRUCTURAL REFORM VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOME FEEDBACK FROM GENEVA ON VIEWS EXPRESSED BY JAPANESE DELEGATION EITHER IN MEETINGS OR IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS.
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